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succeeding to power. But amid these struggles of party, the interests of the nation should be paramount in the nation's view. To the people it is of far more importance, instead of the question of limitation, or non-limitation of the regency, or whose names shall be read as ministers in the court-calendar, that effectual limitations should be put on the encroachments of power, in whose handssoever it may be vested, that corruption should be effectually restrained, and the rights of the nation secured by a wise system of reform, set about in good earnest, and undeviatingly pursued, till the accumulating abuses of successive years be removed.

In the mean time, the present ministers hold to the wreck of their places with great tenacity; resolved, if they are not able to retain their places, that they will limit their successors as much as possible; and the majority in the house of commons as yet support them. This is not to be wondered at. Whoever is minister at the time of a general election, has the command of returning their adherents for the treasury boroughs, and owing to the infatuation of a popular cry, ministers had, at the election in 1807, more influence than usual, over places not so directly under their control. We refer to the conclusion of our motto, for the hurtful consequences of such a system. Influence thus exacted, is the fruitful source of corruption, and the bane of freedom.

#### PUBLIC OCCURRENCES.

##### RESOLUTIONS OF BLEACHERS.

On the 9th of last month a meeting of the proprietors of bleachgreens in the neighbourhood of Belfast, was held in the white linen-hall, which was numerously attended. Entire unanimity prevailed on the subject of petitioning parliament to change

the punishment of robbing bleachgreens from death to transportation for life, or a system of confinement in penitentiary houses, if the legislature should adopt the plan of Sir Samuel Romilly in respect to the erection and management of such places of confinement. To be of any service, they must certainly be managed very differently from our gaols. In America they are popularly called BETTERING HOUSES, a title to which our gaols can lay no claim. It is truly pleasing to observe that the public mind is rapidly progressive on the subject of an alteration in our criminal code, and that the sentiment gains ground dictated alike by humanity and sound policy, to substitute milder punishments strictly inflicted, to greater severity, as the extreme rigour of a law defeats its own purpose, by being only sanguinary in the letter, while it is very laxly enforced.

The following are the resolutions adopted at the meeting:

At a meeting of the proprietors of linen and cotton bleach-works, held in Belfast, the 9th of November, 1810.

JOHN McCANCE, esq. in the Chair;

The following Resolutions were agreed to ..

That notwithstanding the severity of the law, which punishes the robbing of bleachgreens with death, offences of this kind continue to be multiplied, owing, in great measure, to the lenity of prosecutors, the unwillingness of juries to convict, and the general leaning to the side of mercy, when the punishment is, by the common consent of mankind, considered as disproportioned to the offence.

That the severity of the law having been found to defeat the execution of it we are of the opinion, that it would tend to the diminution of crimes, and the more effectual punishment of offenders, if certainty of punishment were substituted for severity.

That a petition to the house of Commons, praying a change of the punishment of death to transportation for life, or a lengthened period of confinement in penitentiary houses, provided a system of confinement in such houses should hereafter be adopted by the Legislature, having been agreed to by this meeting, be forwarded to Sir Samuel Romilly, to present on the meeting of parliament.

That William Stevenson, Archibald Barklie, William Thomson, Robert Williamson, and John Hancock, are appointed a Committee to procure names to this pe-

tion, and correspond with the trade in other places, soliciting their co-operation in this petition, either by the addition of their signatures, or by separate petitions to a similar effect; and that they forward this petition timely to Sir Samuel Romilly, to present.

That the thanks of this meeting be presented to Sir Samuel Romilly, for his benevolent exertions to abridge the number of capital offences; as we are convinced such a mode would lessen the number of crimes, and tend to the more strict execution of the law, and that we hope he will persevere in his work of humanity and enlightened policy.

JOHN MCANCE.

The petition it is intended to give in a future number, after it has been presented to the house of Commons.

The Resolutions of the meeting of Bleachers, held at Belfast on the 9th November, having been forwarded to Sir SAMUEL ROMILLY, the following answer has been received:

*Lincoln's Inn, Nov. 29, 1810.*

SIR,

I shall have very great pleasure in presenting to the house of Commons the petition of which you have transmitted me a copy, and in promoting the object of it to the best of my abilities. The thanks of the gentlemen present at the meeting, held at Belfast on the 9th of the present month, which you have been kind enough to forward to me, are extremely grateful and flattering to me. Next to the consciousness of endeavouring to discharge well an important duty which I owe to my fellow creatures, the best reward I can receive for any exertions which I may make, is the applause of those who take a lively interest in the cause of humanity and justice.

I am, Sir,

Very respectfully,

Your most obt. servt.

SAMUEL ROMILLY.

*To John Hancock, Lisburn.*

A school on the Lancastrian plan has been lately opened in Lisburn, for the education of poor girls, in which, in addition to the usual school learning, sewing, knitting and other work for females are taught. This school is under the management of six young women, who attend in rotation, and perform the office of teachers. By thus mixing with children in the lower ranks of life, they are in a capacity to do much good, not only by instructing the children in useful branches of

learning, but by superintending their morals and manners, and bringing them into habits of regularity and civilization. The true doctrine of equality may in such a school be practically taught by those in higher ranks instructing others, and endeavouring to advance them in increased propriety and decorum of manners; the good effects of which it is hoped, will remain in future life, and attach the instructors and instructed to each other with mutual benefit. This intermixture of ranks may be highly beneficial, and tend on the one hand to remove hauteur towards supposed inferiors, and on the other, induce an improved gentleness of manners among the poor, without, however, breaking down their independence, or teaching them servility. In all plans for the relief and improvement of the poor, great care should be taken to cherish a becoming spirit of independence in them as being highly favourable to efforts in virtue, for they who are taught to look upon themselves in a degraded rank, soon lose that self-respect which is essential to produce good conduct. Fifty girls are now enrolled as scholars, and it is intended shortly to increase the number. On the first of the month, premiums are distributed to those who have made a satisfactory progress, but those girls are excluded from receiving them, who have, during the month, been punished for want of cleanliness, or other misconduct. They are particularly instructed to make and mend their own clothes, a matter of the highest importance to females in all the various situations in which they may be placed in future life.

Among the numerous bankruptcies which the pressure of the times has occasioned, the name of Sir Richard Phillips appears. He is proprietor of the London Monthly Magazine, and a bookseller and publisher of considerable eminence, and is well known as a daring, dashing speculator in literature. He states that he has effects to pay 45s. in the pound, or in other words, that he will have a surplus of seventy or eighty thousand pounds, after payment of his debts. His case is a striking illustration of the difficulty of meeting pressing engagements in the present times, and shows the liability, if prudence is wanting, of commercial speculation ending in wrecked hopes. Speculation in every line, appears to have produced a re-action on its ardent votaries. It must be admitted, that he encouraged

many authors by giving them large prices for the copy-right of their works. But then he printed many of these works in a most expensive manner, and adorned them with costly embellishments. He contributed with other publishers to injure literature by splendid editions, on hot-pressed cream-coloured paper, with all the 'nick-nackerie' of foppish decorations. These practices have tended almost to confine the purchase of books to the rich, or to common-stock libraries, and very nearly to render literature only an aristocratic gratification. The bubble has burst; loss has been sustained on these costly books, and we have the consolation to hope that books will be printed on less expensive terms. The cause of literature would thus be greatly advantaged.

Died, at Athy, on the 4<sup>th</sup> Nov. 1810, aged 47 years, Joseph Devoy, an eminent land-surveyor, and an able and skilful engineer, eldest son of Michael Devoy, of Leinster-Lodge, (who is in his 96 year,) and brother to Michael Devoy, jun. of Killybeg. He was lineally descended of O'Deevy, of Ballyfin, in the Queens-county, who on that fatal morning of the murder of Mullemast, the 1st day of Jan. 1577, was possessed of 27 townlands, 24 of which bore the name of Clunne, Ballyfin, Cromouge, and Dunbrin, all in the Queens-county. The O'Deevies Sept was one of the 7 Septs of Leix; was a very numerous and great family, and at times had a very great patronage in that county. (See Rawson's Statistical Survey of the county Kildare, for the murder of the Queens-county gentlemen, and also Correy's Review of the Civil Wars of Ireland, page 11; and Lee's Memorial, Manuscript, Trinity College, Dublin.)

Died, in Belfast, on the 5<sup>th</sup> October, Mr. Hugh Kirk. The following is a part of his written directions to his executors: 'It is my particular request that as little money as possible be expended on the funeral; my fixed opinion being, that whatever is so spent, more than common decency requires, is worse than lost, it is a robbery on the surviving part of the family. Let my coffin be of plain deal, painted either black or oak colour, which you please, with no escutcheons, except the two with handles at the ends—neither name nor age on it—no hearse—no headstone—no scarfs—no gloves—no spirits, tobacco or pipes—all these are utterly vain and useless. Not meaning hereby to rectify you

from exercising your discretion with regard to such necessary refreshment as my house will afford to my particular friends, and the bearers to my bier. The Poor-house grave-yard being the nearest, and not more expensive than the others (I suppose) and the money applied to charitable purposes, I wish you to give it the preference, especially for the reason last named.'

#### TRIAL OF SAMUEL PENROSE, FOR THE ASSAULT OF JOS. PETERS RICKMAN.

The following singular trial lately occurred at Cork. The prosecutor is an Englishman from Reading in Berkshire, and was formerly a preacher among the Quakers, but has latterly been disowned by them. He has been travelling for some months in Ireland, often preaches publicly in the streets, and speaks in the meetings of the Quakers, contrary to their inclinations.\* Such an intrusion cannot be justified; it is a violation of decorum, and of that right which is due to all societies to be allowed to meet unmolested. But the opposition given to him in some places is very inconsistent with the doctrine of forbearance which the Quakers hold out as one of their distinguishing characteristics. Strong opposition frequently defeats the end proposed, while the patient bearing of intrusion very generally wears out the intruder, and produces more speedily peace, and a cessation of the intrusion. The Quakers should also recollect, that their early members were frequently in the habit of practising similar interruptions on other societies, and complained bitterly of the usage they received on such occasions. Joseph Rick-

\* Since this trial was selected from the public papers, for insertion in our pages, and which lay over from want of room, and since these introductory observations were penned, Joseph Rickman died in Dublin. The interest excited by the trial remains, however, undiminished. It is a curious struggle between fanaticism on the part of the prosecutor, and of cruel behaviour on the part of the defendant; rendered still more disgraceful from the place of its occurrence. It is to be regretted that no disapprobation was publicly expressed by the society in whose presence the outrage was committed.

man justifies his conduct on the same ground as the early Quakers. Both supposed they were actuated by a sense of duty: but the judgment of individuals in their own cases ought not to be admitted as a justification of breaches of decorum, or of violating the rights of others by a forcible intrusion into religious assemblies, as such intrusions are justly referrible to enthusiasm and fanaticism. In the present instance it may be just to remark that the defendant was not in close connexion with the society.

Samuel Penrose was indicted for assaulting, and striking Joseph Peters Rickman, on the morning of the 9th instant, at the meeting-house of the society of Quakers, in Cork.

The first witness examined was Joseph Peters Rickman himself, who appeared an old emaciated man, with a bandage tied round his head; on his being presented with the book, he observed, that he wished to take the oath in the most solemn manner; he therefore put one knee on the table, whilst he was repeating the oath.

Examined by Mr. Mannix.—Remembers the morning of the 9th instant, was in the meeting-house of the society of friends; stood up with an intention of preaching, when the traverser came up, caught him by the collar, and drew him to the door; he then threw him as a child, when his face came against the pebbles, luckily not against a projecting one, or his life would be endangered, a small contusion in this part would be fatal. Here the witness entered into a learned explanation of the parts; he stated that he had no previous quarrel with the traverser.

Cross-examined by counsellor McCarthy.—Is of the universal catholic religion whose members are the true sons of Jesus, and are spread over the earth; wishes that his heart was as open as glass to the sun; studied in no college, was not expelled; quitted them voluntarily; did not like counsel to condemn religion; was in town about three weeks; was part of the time at R. Mountjoy's; refused for some time to answer the question, whether Mountjoy had any love for the Quakers, until ordered by the court; knows he is bound by his oath to tell the whole truth; Mountjoy has no love for the Quakers; thinks, however, he is a friend to the Quakers; but not to their abominable corruption; thinks that respectable society does not patronize abominable corruptions;

found his company disagreeable, yet went into the society's meeting-house.

Witness and Mountjoy have an indifferent opinion of the society, because those corruptions are not disowned, though they still avow their doctrines. By those, Jesus Christ is president of their meetings, and their constitution forbids any premeditated discourses; probably should have spoken on the morning he was assaulted; but went with no disposition; when at the meeting, rose from his seat and went to the opposite side; remarked that counsel talked with levity; recollects his oath; believes he had more reverence for an oath than counsel himself, and considered him grossly indecent; did go in to preach among a society he disliked; disliked it for its mixtures and certain corruptions among its body; believes the act of traverser proceeded either from the impulse of the moment or to curry favour with the body; never saw traverser before the day of the assault; never spoke to him, how could he speak to him when he did not see him before? cannot impute any motive to his conduct, and knows nothing of him only what he has learned subsequent to the present action. Understands since he is called the Black Tyrant, and is known all over the country as a monster; prosecutor declared his sight terrifies him, and he cannot bear it. Quakers entertain a great many opinions in common with other sects; attended their meetings often since he came to town: knows Morris and Wright called on him; believes it was to impart some counsel; if they requested him not to attend, would still have gone as he did through all Ireland; was received well at Youghal till a monthly meeting took place; was then shut out; prosecutor declared it had no authority since the glorious revolution, which established the rights of these kingdoms; the members could not close the gate, nor was it any violation of law, if he put his foot to force it open; behaved with civility to Morris, though he accused him of defaming prosecutor from the gallery, and said that Morris ought to be exposed.—[Here witness ejaculated on the supposed severity of counsel—Oh! if my king knew of your conduct.]—It was not usual for him to appeal, but was struck with the levity of the court; and even counsel himself would be struck with awful visitation on his death-bed. He, (prosecutor) had an interview with the bishop of Durham, previous to his going on his

present mission, who told him he respected all the itinerants, and prosecutor replied, his duty was to love God and honour the king. Prosecutor declared it was contrary to law to shut up the door of a religious meeting-house; went the evening of the day he was assaulted to communicate what the meeting were unworthy to hear, and that was an awful lesson of gospel love; confessed it was a respectable society, and it would be the height of presumption to call it otherwise. He went there to impart something of awful concern to the minds of the young persons when he observed them sitting for two hours in stupid silence. There might be a few solid persons among them, but they generally were employed about their business, and thinking more of pounds, shillings, and pence; his going to the meeting he believes, was agreeable to the greater part of the body; knows so, from a variety of conversations, and from a number of letters with which his pockets were filled; conceives it his duty, though of weakly constitution; he always preserved the fairest character, he quitted the society two years since, and belonged to it his whole life before, he understands its rules well: There is no such thing as a license to preach, his certificate was not withdrawn but he delivered it up; knows Ruben Harvey, was at the door yesterday and asked him out, prosecutor won't give his opinion of the character of R. Harvey, was at length obliged to confess it is considered highly respectable by the public, though prosecutor conceives a large part considers it the reverse on religious points; don't recollect whether he was at the meeting on Thursday; asks a young man of the name of Mountjoy if he were; appeals to "his dear jury," and declares he will not be bullied by counsel. Prosecutor then declared he found his memory strengthened; was there on that day; went to communicate good advice;—declares counsel was as ignorant of the grounds of his memory as the child unborn did not at the meeting say they were unworthy of being saved; did not controvert with acrimony; did not say it was ridiculous to affirm and not to swear. R. H. said nothing but that he should not enter; was at the meeting five or six times; had reason to believe it was agreeable to the greater part, but those employed in commercial pursuits; did not use any abusive epithets to R. Harvey; acknowledges he called him purse-proud and upstart; thinks it a decent epithet if rightly

applied. It was not contrary to christian peace to call him ignorant and upstart; it was not to violate the peace, nor to gratify his (the prosecutor's) feelings; but to bow and humble him. Here the prosecutor exclaimed as he did frequently during the trial, gracious God! is this a court of law; every time he went to the meeting he preached; his soul yearned to see them sit month after month in silence. Some of the members waited on him very affectionately, who were in strict unity with the body; amongst whom were W. and T. Martin. They entirely disapproved of the conduct of the traverser; who is not a resident of the town; but has a house near Fermoy.—To a question from a Jurymen, prosecutor declared none of the body addressed him before preaching, but John Morris.

Dr. Osborne was examined as to the wound or rather scratch, when it turned out to be of a very trivial nature, the prosecutor attending to annoy the meeting the same evening.

Counsellor McCarthy for the defence—Gentlemen of the Jury, it has fallen to my lot in this case to address you upon the circumstances implied in the allegation of the prosecutor against my client. You have witnessed the theatrical exhibition of this evidence, and you will appreciate it accordingly. What credit, I will ask you, can reasonable men attach to the man, who, counterfeiting the message of peace and Gospel Love, is so led astray by the irritability—and more exorbitant I have never witnessed—of a distempered, dotting, and fanatic mind?

Gentlemen, it is not possible, that this wretched old man could be impressed with the solemnity of the oath he has taken, throughout its entire extent, when he attaches to me an individual, hitherto, and at this moment perfectly unknown to him, a levity of consideration for that awful pledge? It is not possible, nor can I for a moment, imagine, that you will be otherwise impressed than I am upon this head; besides you have seen his pertinacity of refusal to comply with the formalities of the court in answering questions other than his own perverse inclination led him to—Add to this the unwillingness he evinced in reply to the question of the character of Ruben Harvey than whom a more amiable and meritorious man did not exist in society.—Weigh his declarations also regarding that equally respectable man, whom he "for the purpose of self-bowing, and humiliation," names

"upstart and false friend,"—reflect, I say, on those glaring points of his testimony, and decide between this ridiculous "religious reformer," and the respectable and blameless society which he has stigmatized with corruption.

Gentleman, is it to be tolerated that a mountebank, half actor, all doctor, shall hold the genuine principles of religious liberty, for his invasion of every religious worship, whose doctrines and constitutions his fanatic mind may lead him to disturb? Shall this modern St. Paul, this infuriated apostle of the nineteenth century, be quietly permitted to run open-mouthed upon every circle of religious establishment; infusing into the young minds of those who may listen to his vile cant, a distaste and disrepute for the profession of that worship adopted by their fathers? Gentlemen, there is no man more decidedly inclined to religious toleration than myself. But I ask some whom I see in that box, members of the establishment, whether they would calmly view such a canting hypocritical ruffian, indecently obtrude himself upon their attention in church, when their worthy bishop was addressing them from the pulpit? I am certain that he would speedily meet a reception not at all less rude, than the subject of this trial. Do not imagine that I advocate a savage act of violence; but when I assure you that the whole transaction has arisen out of an associated resentment against the

respectable body of Quakers; when I prove to you that this old envenomed serpent has, conjunctly with an unworthy, because a disgraced and discarded member, sat brooding over an administration of the rankest poison in place of gospel love. When you are convinced that this charlatan has been instigated by his "dear Richard Mountjoy," who now sits behind him, the friendly minister to his memory, you will not regard his appeal so markedly directed to the "principles of the glorious revolution and the English constitution." Gentlemen, this prosecutor has told you, but will you believe him, that he did not go profanely to oppose the doctrines of that meeting in the month of September, but from his prior administration, it appears his confirmed intention was to act so. I shall not any longer trespass on your attention than to forwarn you of the hardship which every society is liable to from the insane visitation of such fanatics claiming a legal sanction totally opposed to such a proceeding. I now conclude by admonishing you not to establish a precedent in this case for successive imitation—it is equally fraught with danger to all societies and merits your distinct and decided reprobation.

The recorder commented at some length upon the evidence.

The Jury, after a short deliberation, brought in a verdict of guilty, and the recorder sentenced him (S. Penrose) to pay a fine of £30.

## AGRICULTURAL REPORT.

*From Nov. 20, till Dec. 20, 1810.*

WINTER is a season so unfavourable to most or all of the farmers' operations in the field, that it furnishes a very scanty supply of materials for an agricultural report.

The long continuance of wet weather has protracted the raising of the potato crops to a very late period, and consequently retarded the sowing of wheat so much, that it is thought there will not be the usual quantity next season, unless the practice of sowing in spring is resorted to, which in warm favourable summers has been frequently found to succeed better than when sown too far on in the winter.

It has been remarked that the crops of potatoes in many parts of the country, have not turned out so productive as their appearance gave reason to expect, a general complaint seems to prevail of the roots being smaller than usual, particularly where the old black kind was planted, and some injury has been done to those that were not dug out at the time of the two or three nights of hard frost, and which has been considerably increased by the proprietors having impudently hurried them out of the ground, and binned them up before the thaw came on; the consequence of which has been, that they have mixed many frosted roots with the sound ones, and the whole is in danger of being lost, unless they are timely opened, and carefully separated.

The price of grain has been nearly stationary for two months back—some advance on oats has lately taken place.